

CONGRATULATIONS HONORARY
DEGREE RECIPIENTS**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mrs. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I congratulate the 2003 Honorary Degree recipients from John Carroll University, Monsignor William Linder, who received a Doctor of Laws, and the recipients of a Doctorate in Humane Letters, Sonya Rendon Blacio and Mary Patricia McTeague. America is fortunate to be blessed with citizens of their high calibre and profound dedication.

Monsignor William Linder has spent his life saving cities and souls. During the Newark riots of 1967, the New Jersey native, a parish priest at the time, stepped forward to bring people together and build trust. He moved through the battle zone, delivering food and transporting the injured to hospitals. After the smoke cleared, the priest called together a group of residents to set about rebuilding the city they loved. In Newark's Central Ward, they formed the New Community Corporation (NCC) and charged it with the mission of creating housing and the products and services that would bring jobs. The NCC has become the largest and most successful community development organization in the United States. It has brought new life to the old city of Newark, providing housing and jobs for thousands, and creating a community development model that is now being studied and emulated throughout the world. Monsignor Linder has won the McArthur Foundation "Genius" fellowship, and he has received countless honors in the course of his remarkable ministry to the people of northern New Jersey. He has said, "I have never really thought of myself as a pastor to only Catholics. I am a pastor of people."

In honor of Monsignor Linder, Professor George Bilgere penned the following poem:

You walked into the battle zone
Of Newark in the sixties
A young, audacious, rabble-rousing priest,
Hoping to rebuild the city from its core,
To heal its broken heart, to do
What no one believed you could do.
The broken-hearted cities,
The neighborhoods called Hough
And Watts and Spanish Harlem,
Are not the parts of America
We think of saving
When the bombs are falling,
Or when the flag is waving
Over baseball games in spring.
Probably there aren't many flags
Waving over East St. Louis or Cabrini Green
Or Roxbury or Eight mile,
But it's hard to know for sure
Because no one travels there
Who doesn't have to.
Only those who have no choice
Live in the broken heart
Of America.
But now, thirty-five years later,
A gray-haired, audacious, rabble-rousing
priest,
You watch the Central Ward prosper
While the country watches you,
Taking hope from the strength and courage,
The hard work of one stubborn man,
One man of vision who understands
That America will not be whole or free
Until the cities,

The broken-hearted cities, are healed.

Sonya Rendon Blacio and Mary Patricia McTeague have had dramatic success in creating a new world in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Rendon, an Ecuadorian education, and McTeague, an American and a former nun, have built a school that is a model of both educational excellence and egalitarianism. At Escuela Nuevo Mondo, which the two women began in 1979, the school's 200 faculty members instruct 1400 tuition-paying students, the children of affluent Ecuador, in the morning. In the afternoon, 900 children of poverty receive the same education for free from the Fundacion Nuevo Mondo. Rendon and McTeague state that Nuevo Mondo is in truth "a social revolution aimed at changing attitudes between social classes and opening doors to offer options to some of the 80 percent of Ecuadorians who otherwise would not have the opportunity for quality education, medical and social assistance." Today, Nuevo Mondo operates elementary and high schools, a commercial bakery, two day care centers, two medical centers and vocational training projects. The people of Ecuador continue to struggle, but Nuevo Mondo has been a beacon pointing the way to a new world.

In honor of Sonya Rendon Blacio and Mary Patricia McTeague, Professor George Bilgere penned the following poem:

On the coast of Ecuador,
Out of poverty and despair,
A new world is rising,
One classroom at a time
A Nuevo Mundo, where once
Was only a jungle and a dream.
At first your idea was simple;
Build a school for their children
So in the afternoon
There would, at last, be a classroom
For the children of the poor.
But you learned over time
That the rich, too, are poor,
As long as they can't define
The word hunger, or explain
What it means to have no shoes,
Or to be unable
To read the Bible, or a novel,
Or your name.
Real change, you found,
Comes only when the rich man suffers
To learn from the beggar
That they are brothers
Who can help each other
Ease the pain of the world;
Only then will come the day
When the old world passed
Through hard work and love
And the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
Into the new world you dream of
And are building from the jungle
One classroom at a time,
That Nuevo Mundo, where all
Are brothers and sisters,
Equal in every way.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH
FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 660. It is being promoted by some in Congress as the silver bullet that will help small businesses get health insurance, but I

believe that this legislation puts consumers at risk without helping small business owners get health insurance.

Many of my concerns about AHPs mirror those of Sandy Praeger, the Kansas Insurance Commissioner. I will quote extensively from her remarks about AHPs made before the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee on February 5, 2003.

AHPs will not reduce the cost of health insurance for small businesses. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that H.R. 660 would actually drive up the cost of coverage for 20 million individuals—80 percent of small employers and their families who are now covered under employer-based health insurance plans. The results of this legislation could actually make coverage less affordable for the vast majority of small business workers who now have coverage. A recent study released by National Small Business United (NSBU) found that AHPs would result in more than 1 million more uninsured and cause premiums to skyrocket for the sickest workers.

Additionally, H.R. 660 will hurt those who most need health coverage, and those who employ them. H.R. 660 could actually hurt those who most need health coverage by allowing AHPs to "cherry pick" only the healthiest, cheapest-to-insure individuals to participate in their plans. Most States prohibit this kind of health insurance discrimination, but H.R. 660 would preempt these anti-discrimination measures in most States, allowing AHPs to discriminate against those who most need coverage. Commissioner Praeger's remarks illustrate how H.R. 660 would undermine State reforms in this regard and leave sicker and higher risk employees out in the cold.

In order to keep costs low, AHPs would have an incentive to target the people who are the least costly to insure—healthy, young people who rarely access health services. By giving AHPs the power to charge higher premiums for less healthy groups and the discretion to offer narrower benefits, these bills will allow AHPs to deter less healthy groups from enrolling. Small businesses that employ older, disabled or chronically ill individuals would be forced to pay more out-of-pocket or left behind altogether. As noted above, 80 percent of small employers will be left out and will likely see their premiums increase as the State-regulated health insurance market loses its healthy individuals to AHPs, leaving sicker and older individuals in the State market.

State consumer protections, such as external appeals of disputed claims, would be ignored as well as other guaranteed benefits such as maternity care, mammograms, mental health treatment, or diabetes. For many years, I have supported efforts to enact a strong patients' bill of rights that would extend consumer protections to all Americans. This legislation, however, would expose millions of workers—in both small and large businesses—who now enjoy the advantages of State consumer protections into plans that are completely exempt from those protections.

Fundamentally, AHPs would completely destroy the State insurance market. As Commissioner Praeger stated:

The AHP legislation in Congress would undermine state reforms and once again fragment the market. Each association would create its own risk pool that, due to the benefits provided, types of business in the association, or area serviced, could have significantly lower risk than the general market.